

**REMARKS**

The Office Action dated October 12, 2006, has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendments to the application have been made in consequence thereof.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the teachings of claim 2, which was objected to by the Examiner, and which has been canceled by this amendment; and claim 1 has also been amended to change “the derivatized hematin catalyst has been previously reacted with” to read - -the derivitized hematin catalyst has been formed by reacting hematin with- - as recommended by the Examiner.

Claim 2 has been canceled.

Claim 3 has been amended to change “compromising” to read - -comprising- - in line 1, as recommended by the Examiner, and to delete pH values.

Claims 1 and 3, as amended, and claims 4-19 remain active in this application.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 12-14, 16-17, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Samuelson et al. (6,018,018) in view of Akkara et al. (hematin catalyzed polymerization of phenol compounds.)

The Examiner objected to claims 2-11, 15 and 18 as being dependant upon a rejected base claim, but those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, as suggested by the Examiner, claim 1 has been amended to include the teachings of claim 2, which has been canceled. Claims 1 and 3 have also been amended to include the changes of wording, as recommended by the Examiner, and as mentioned above. Claims 3, as amended, and 4-19 are dependant on amended claim 1.

Thus, applicants respectfully aver that claims 1 and 3, as amended, and 4-19 would not be obvious to one skilled in the art over Samuelson et al. in view of Akkara et al.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 1 and 3, as amended, and claims 4-19 in this application are allowable and Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner wish to contact Applicants' attorney regarding this application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to do so by calling or writing the undersigned in the Office of Counsel, U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center, Natick, MA 01760 at (508)233-4510.

Respectfully submitted,

OCT. 17, 2006  
Date

Vincent J. Ranucci  
Vincent J. Ranucci  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. #29,579